

June 21, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing you about the downed animal issue (docket # 98P-0151/CP1). I wish to express my concern for the risk downed animals pose in meat products. I am aware that downed animals pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination. It has also been brought to my attention that downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE. I want to know if you are doing anything to prevent downed animals from entering the meat industry. I feel that you should prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. The only way to transport a downed animal is by inflicting pain on it. It is cruel to drag a downed animal that may have broken limbs or one that simply cannot support weight on all four limbs.

I would also appreciate it if you could give me some information on the transport of horses bound for slaughter. I believe that lame or blind horses should not be transported to slaughter as they endure terrible pain and discomfort and can be trampled by other horses in the process.

Please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food. It is the responsibility of the FDA to protect the public against increased risks in the food we consume.

Sincerely,

Megan Cashman

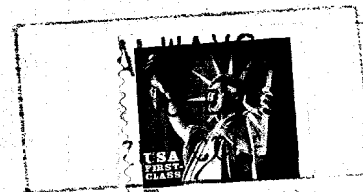
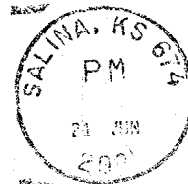
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98P-0151

Megan Cashman

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